

The Knoxville Independent

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Your Flag and My Flag

By WILBUR D. NESBIT

YOUR Flag and my Flag! And oh, how much it holds—
Your land and my land—secure within its fold!
Your heart and my heart beat quicker at the sight
Sun-kissed and wind-torn, red and blue and white.
The one flag—the great flag—the flag for me and you—
Glorifies all else beside—the red and white and blue.

YOUR Flag and my Flag! And how it flies today
In your land and my land and half a world away!
Rose-red and blood-red the stripes forever gleam;
Snow-white and soul-white—the good forefathers' dream.

Sky-blue and true blue, with stars to gleam bright—
The gloried guidon of the day; a shelter through the night

YOUR Flag and my Flag! To every star and stripe
The drums beat as hearts beat and fifeers shrilly pipe!
Your Flag and my Flag—a blessing in the sky:
Your hope and my hope—tho' never hid its lie!
Home land and far land and half the world around,
Old Glory hears our glad salute and rippled to the sound!



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"No men living are more worthy to be trusted than those who toil up from poverty, none less inclined to take or touch aught which they have not honestly earned."—Abraham Lincoln.

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Postal Employees Want More Money.

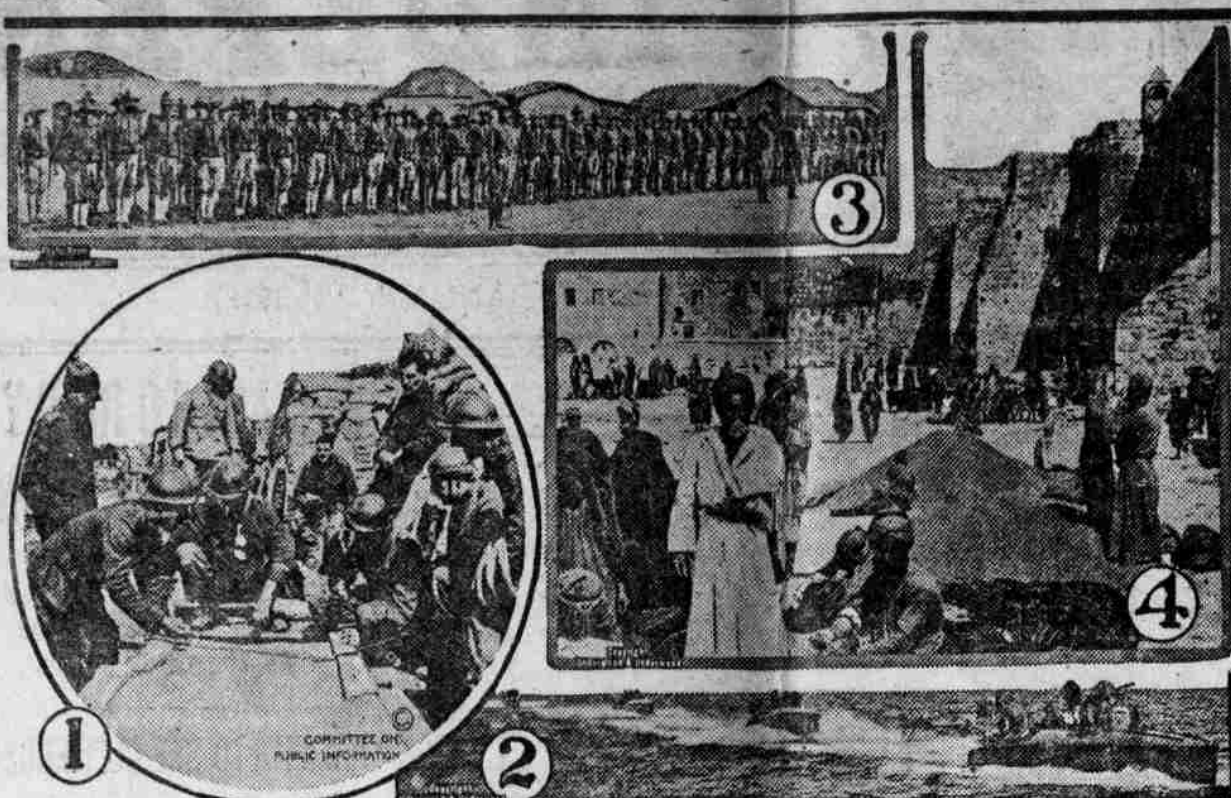
Plea, not so much for increased wages as the restoration of their old scale of pay, is contained in a memorial signed by 28,000 postal employees in the country, which was presented for the consideration of the postmaster general.

Edward J. Galt, president of the National Association of Lettercarriers and the assistant secretary of this organization, M. T. Finnan, presented the memorial.

Recited in the paper are facts which would prove that while the cost of living has doubled or more during the last ten years that the wages of the letter carriers of the country have never been increased, but, on the contrary curtailed to a certain extent.

Safety Measures Pay.

The new value placed on human equipment in the industry of the United States was the subject of an address by C. W. Price, field secretary of the national safety council, before the Optimist club, at its weekly luncheon at Indianapolis. Mr. Price said that for the first time industries in general are beginning to realize that safety measures pay big dividends. One-third of all accidents, he said, in the industrial field can be avoided by mechanical methods and two-thirds can be eliminated by educational campaigns among employees.



1—Belgian engineers repairing a roadway over which heavy guns are moved. 2—Flotilla of Italian submarine chasers operating in the upper Adriatic. 3—Regiment of Cuban infantry in training in an American camp. 4—Scene in Bethlehem, birthplace of Christ, now occupied by the British forces in Palestine.

NEWS REVIEW OF THE PAST WEEK

Wilson's Assumption of Control of Railroads Is Long Step Toward Efficiency.

GREAT POWERS FOR M'ADOO

Secretary Baker Prodded by Senate Committee—Teutonic Peace Suggestions Made by Count Czernin in Reply to the Russian Bolshevik Proposals.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

The great event of the week, for the United States and, indirectly for the allied cause, was President Wilson's action in assuming control of the railways and steamship lines within the borders of this country. This step, Mr. Wilson said, had become imperatively necessary because this is a war of resources no less than of men, and in order that the resources of America be completely mobilized the transportation systems of the country must be organized and operated under a single authority.

This single authority is William G. McAdoo, secretary of the treasury, who was appointed director general because, as the president expressed it, "his practical experience peculiarly fits him for the service and his authority as secretary of the treasury enables him to co-ordinate as no other man could the many financial interests which will be involved." Mr. McAdoo assumed control at noon Friday.

Not only rail and steamship lines are included in the president's proclamation, but also all terminals, sleeping and parlor cars, private cars and car lines, railroad elevators and warehouses, railroad telegraph and telephone lines and interurban electric lines carrying freight only. Stockholders of railroads are guaranteed a profit equal at least to the average profits during the three fiscal years ending June 30, 1917, which will be about 5.21 per cent on the capital investment.

Step Is Generally Commended.

General and hearty approval was given President Wilson's action, alike by railway officials, financiers and the public. The first named gave assurance of their earnest co-operation with Director General McAdoo, and in nearly every instance declared their belief that the plan adopted would be entirely satisfactory. They had known for some time that some such thing must be done, for the committee of executives that has been in large measure directing the operation of railways, though doing excellent and disinterested work, had been unable to solve the problem of equitable distribution of earnings. Complete unity of operation will permit of this, and will result in more efficient conduct than has been possible heretofore.

It is probable that, under Mr. McAdoo's direction, competition for earnings being eliminated, many competing trains will be withdrawn and passenger traffic will be largely curtailed. There will be a general shifting of rolling stock and much freight equipment will be sent to eastern territory from the South and West to relieve the congestion of transportation of war materials. Naturally, everything else will be subordinated to the war needs of the nation. It is not unlikely that passenger rates will be raised to three cents a mile.

The one element of the population that may not entirely approve of government control is the railway brotherhoods. Their opportunity to enforce by strike their demands for increased pay has vanished, though it is only fair to assume that their loyalty and patriotism would not have permitted them to tie up the country's transportation. The heads of the brotherhoods were called to the White House to confer with the president on their requests for higher wages. The increases asked average about 40 per cent. What the government will grant of course is not yet known. In this

matter, as in all others, Director McAdoo has plenary powers. Indeed, next to the president, he is now the most powerful official in the nation, his authority being paramount to that of the interstate commerce commission and the state railway commission. He can revise rates, determine dividends and even discharge and appoint directors and other officials.

Senate Committee Prods Baker.

Bureaucratic methods and the red tape in which they are entangled were rather mercilessly exposed in the inquiry conducted by the senate committee on military affairs, and as one result the committee did precisely what President Wilson successfully opposed last summer when he defeated the plan to create a congressional committee on the conduct of the war. After hearing that more than 20,000 men in the army camps are without overcoats and nearly 47,000 without winter blouses, the committee adopted a resolution asking Secretary Baker to supply these deficiencies at once and to permit camp commanders to cut the red tape and purchase the garments wherever possible. The secretary of war also was requested to ascertain whether any other serious shortages existed and if so, to obtain the supplies at once. Mr. Baker said he would take the action requested.

The committee has been finding out a great many things that explain much of the exasperating and painful delay in equipping our troops with arms, munitions and other supplies and the good effects of the investigation are already apparent in the speeding up that is being shown.

Interesting Developments in Chicago.

Without betraying government plans, it may be said that arrangements are being made to devote a great part of Chicago's manufacturing resources to the making of large caliber guns and finished shells. It was stated a local director of munitions might be appointed to apportion the war contracts.

Another event of importance in Chicago—important to the whole country—was the definite settlement, during the war, of all labor troubles at the stockyards. Through the efforts of government officials an agreement was reached that there shall be no more strikes or lockouts and that all differences that cannot be adjusted by the companies' general managers shall be referred to the United States administrator, whose decision shall be final. John E. Williams of Streator, famed for his success in handling labor troubles, was appointed administrator by Secretary of Labor Wilson. It is understood that the agreement reached in this case represents the policy the government intends to pursue in all pending labor disputes that affect the making or handling of war supplies. Union labor won a big point at Chicago in that the agreement provides that the men and women at the yards can belong to unions if they so desire.

Conscription of labor to build ships was suggested by Senators Sherman, Nelson and Bankhead when Vice Chairman Stevens of the shipping board told the senate commerce committee that between 200,000 and 300,000 more men were needed to complete the board's program within the next year. Mr. Stevens, however, contended that conscription of labor would never be accepted by the American people.

Christmas Peace Offer.

Kaiser Wilhelm did not make his predicted Christmas peace offer. He did, however, deliver another of his bombastic proclamations to his armies, in which he gave the German soldiers high praise and added the statement that if his enemies would not consent to such peace terms as he has suggested in the past, Germany's iron fist and flaming sword would compel them to yield. At the same time Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, was telling the peace conference at Brest-Litovsk that the central powers were resolved to sign terms immediately which will terminate the war on conditions that will be just to all belligerents, without forcible annexations and indemnities. They approved, he said, of the basic principles uttered by the Russian delegates, but insisted these proposals could be realized only if all the belligerents obligated themselves to adhere to the terms of such a peace. He said Germany could not allow the right of self-determination of control to be applied in her colonial possessions.

The chairman of the Russian delegation declared Czernin's reply to the Russian proposals was incomplete and in some respects unsatisfactory. The bolsheviki leaders still seem to hope the entente allies and the United States will participate in the negotiations they have started, but there are no present indications that this hope will be realized. Meanwhile Germany continues to remove vast numbers of troops from the east front to the west, calmly ignoring the impotent protests of Trotsky.

Though Czernin's statement was made on behalf of all four of the Teutonic allies, it is not at all pleasing to Bulgaria. King Ferdinand declares his country intends to hold what she has won.

During the week the bolsheviki made little if any progress in their civil war against the Cossacks and the Ukrainians. The former kept up their fight in southern Russia and the latter were reported to have occupied the headquarters of the Fourth, Eighth and Eleventh armies on the Roumanian and southwestern fronts, disarming the troops that resisted them and seizing quantities of arms and supplies.

Bolsheviki Accuse United States.

Trotsky and his followers attempted to fasten on Ambassador Francis and other American officials guilt of engaging in a plot to assist Kaledines, by sending to Rostov motor cars and consigning to the American Red Cross in Russia. Colonel Kolpashnikov, who had bought the cars in America, was thrown into prison and the bolsheviki newspapers railed against the Americans. Trotsky demanded an explanation from Mr. Francis, and when it came it left him with no leg to stand on. However, he kept the colonel locked up, and then it developed that Kolpashnikov was one of those who strictly examined Trotsky at Halifax when he was on his way to Russia—enter the element of personal enmity. The whole affair was a mere nest, but on Thursday Trotsky telegraphed Commander in Chief Krylenko: "New sympathy has been manifested between the American imperialists and Kaledines."

As was to be expected, Japan is paying serious attention to the efforts of the bolsheviki to make peace with Germany. The emperor and some of his most trusted advisers conferred the other day on the steps Japan should take to protect her interests.

China's increasing interest in the war was demonstrated by events at Harbin, Manchuria, where Chinese fought and defeated the Maximalists, disarmed them and took possession of the city.

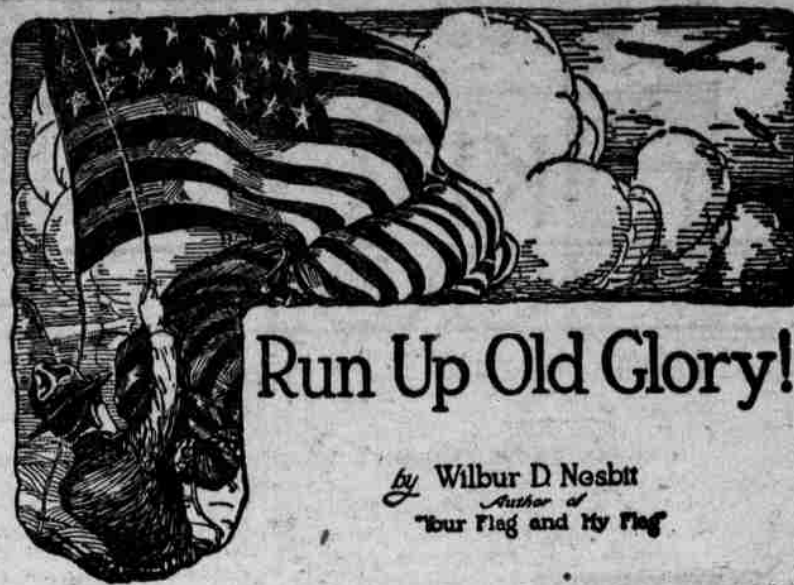
Fierce Fighting in Italy.

Military operations for the week were in the main confined to Italy, but the fighting there was bitter enough to do for all fronts. The Teutons having failed to break through to the plains between the Piave and the Brenta, renewed their attacks on the Asiago plateau west of the latter river. Positions on the Col del Rosso and Monte del Val Bella changed hands three times, the Italians finally being forced to retire somewhat. But their opposition was so determined and the losses of the enemy so heavy that the latter could not follow up their gain. Every day increases the probability that the Teutons will be held or will be compelled to fall back to preserve their lines of communication. The spirit of the Italians is high and help from France and Great Britain is steadily flowing to them.

Apparently Von Hindenburg had not yet found the soft spot on the west front at which to strike, for the only serious attack the Germans made there was in the Verdun sector east of the Meuse. Five successive assaults were made, but the French beat them all off with heavy loss to the enemy. Alarmed by the growing strength of the minority Socialists in Germany, that branch of the party that refuses to follow Scheidemann and that persistently attacks the war program of the government, the kaiser caused the arrest on Christmas eve of more than 300 members of the faction in a large number of cities.

Another shakeup in the British admiralty started with the retirement of Admiral Jellicoe from the post of first sea lord. He is succeeded by Vice Admiral Wemyss.

The senate lost a valuable and hard-working member last week in the death of Francis G. Newlands of Nevada. He died in the harness, suddenly.



Run up Old Glory!

Let it blaze

In red and white against the sky
And tell the story of the days
When hearts were stout and hopes were high
Forget the daily fights of greed,
Forget the struggles, the dismay
Of facing cruelty and need—
Run up Old Glory for the day.

Run up Old Glory!

Think of all

The old flag means to you and me,
Of how the blast of freedom's call
Shook out its folds from sea to sea,
Red with the blood that it has cost,
White with the souls of them that died—
To-day by laughing breezes tossed
It whispers of a nation's pride.

Run up Old Glory!

Fling it forth

And feel anew the country-call
That thrills East, West and South and North
And has its word for one and all.
Run up Old Glory—fling it far
Across the blue of heaven's dome,
And feel that every stripe and star
Is warder of your hearth and home.



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"MADE IN AMERICA"

"Made In Europe"
No Longer!

Merchants and consumers the country over are quickly picking up the slogan "Made In America."

They see in it more money for America, and that means for themselves.

Friends, learn not only to do without costly imported goods, but to demand home-made goods entirely.

It'll pay you. Join the movement now!

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Union Employe

Wednesday Night January 9

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